

**REMARKS**

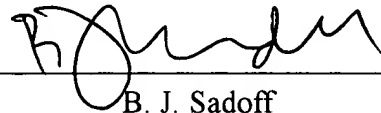
Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-23 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 24-55 have been added. Support for the claims may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. A copy of the Notice of October 12, 2000, is attached. An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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